

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS, FOR THE SECRETARY ONLY FROM LORD

E.O. 11652N.A.

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: BLUMENTHAL LETTER TO TIME MAGAZINE

1. MIKE BLUMENTHAL'S ASSISTANT HAROLD KAPLAN HAS FORWARDED TO ME COPY OF LETTER WHICH BLUMENTHAL SENT TO TIME EDITORS AFTER HIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU. I AM FOWARDING BELOW TEXTS OF KAPLAN LETTER TO ME AS WELL AS BLUMENTHAL LETTER FOR YOUR INFORMATION. I HAVE INFORMED KAPLAN THAT I HAVE SENT TEXT TO YOU.

2. KAPLAN-LORD LETTER (DECEMBER 27). QUOTE. MIKE BLUMENTHAL, AS YOU DOUBTLESS KNOW, IS AT SEA ISLAND AT THE MOMENT AND WILL PROBABLY NOT BE BACK IN WASHINGTON UNTIL JANUARY 3, HAS ASKED ME TO SEND YOU A COPY OF THE LETTER
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WHICH HE HAS SENT TO TIME AS A FOLLOW-UP TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH HENRY KISSINGER ON THE SUBJECT OF THAT UNFORTUNATE TIME PIECE.

TIME HAS PROMISED TO PUBLISH THE LETTER ON THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OCCASION, PRESUMABLY THE JANUARY 10 ISSUE.

WOULD YOU BE GOOD ENOUGH TO INFORM THE SECRETARY THAT MIKE IS DOING EVERYTHING HE CAN TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. SINCERELY, HAROLD KAPLAN. END QUOTE.

3. BLUMENTHAL-TIME LETTER (DECEMBER 24).QUOTE. TIME'S HIGHLY FLATTERING (DECEMBER 27, 1976) SUMMARY OF MY CAREER WAS MARRED FORME BY THE FACT THAT THE SECTION "U.S. POSTURE ABROAD" CONVEYED AN INCORRECT AND MISLEADING IMPRESSION OF MY VIEWS ON HOW OUR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING HANDLED.

I AM FRANKLY DISMAYED THAT TIME COULD TAKE SOME COMMENTS MADE INFORMALLY ON THE TELEPHONE NINE MONTHS AGO, IN REFERENCE TO AN EARLIER AND QUITE DIFFERENT PERIOD, AND PRESENT THEM ENTIRELY OUT OF CONTEXT. INEVITABLY, MANY OF YOUR READERS SIMPLY ASSUMED THAT THESE COMMENTS WERE MADE IN AN INTERVIEW ON THE OCCASION OF MY APPOINTMENT. THIS IS ESPECIALLY EMBARRASSING TO ME, BECAUSE IT MIS-REPRESENTS MY OVERALL JUDGMENT OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT AND RECENT PERFORMANCE IN THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC FIELD AND, IN PARTICULAR, FAILS TO CONVEY THE HIGH ESTEEM I HAVE FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MANY REMARKABLE CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF OUR COUNTRY.

I AM SURE THAT TIME WILL BE AS CONCERNED AS I AM TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. SINCERELY YOURS, W. M. BLUMENTHAL, SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY-DESIGNATE. END QUOTE. ROBINSON

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